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Associates NAL

TODAY

CATALOGING - PREP.

The Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc.
Newsletter No. 2 March 1972
Beltsville, Md. 20705

VIEW FROM THE TOWER

A special privilege extended to the Associates and made available by NAL is the Board Room in the tower of the Library building at Beltsville, Maryland. One day a week is spent there by your President on matters pertaining to the Associates. The perceptions from Room 204A are challenging and constantly changing; therefore, "The View from the Tower" suggests a fitting title for commentary by the President.

The Associates has been largely concerned for the first year and a half of existence with organizational affairs - incorporation, applications for tax-exempt status, election of officers, establishment of committees and membership drive. All of this is time consuming, tedious business. Now the time has arrived to define the role of individual members. The common tendency today is to ask what's in it for me. Instead, the Associates are asking what you can do voluntarily for the whole group in support of the National Agricultural Library.

Our membership is widely scattered over the United States: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia. Eventually we hope to extend membership around the world.

Only a few members visit the Library regularly or become well acquainted with

the staff. Some feel that because of this, they can not take an active role in the affairs of the Associates. This is a misconception. One of the most constructive committee reports submitted to the Board of Directors this year was prepared by an enthusiastic group of members, only one of whom, to our knowledge, has ever visited NAL.

The interests and the complex programs of the National Agricultural Library require limitless resources. Assistance in building the resources of the National Agricultural Library is one of the stated objectives of the Associates. We need the initiative, knowledge and contacts of each member in order to fulfill this objective.

There are jobs you can do. Do you know book collectors who have formed specialized subject collections in the agricultural field? It is a broad field embracing plants, animals, man, and environment. You could help by advertising the National Agricultural Library as a pre-eminent depository for their collections. Make the initial contacts for prospective donors through our Executive Secretary. Books are not the only resource; our interests include paintings, prints, audio-visuals, and museum objects.

Another area of pressing endeavor at the present time is recruitment of new members. Mention the Associates to friends, casual acquaintances, and people you meet daily at home, office, and abroad. Our strength is in our numbers. There are three basic categories of membership: personal, institutional, and business/industrial. Unlike college and university libraries, we do not have a group of alumni to draw upon. So, we must constantly sell our organization to the public.

Committees are another area in which we need your help. Volunteer for membership on one! The chairmen will be grateful for your support! Do you have ideas for a new committee? Want to carry out these ideas? Let's hear from you. The Associates will be effective only if it is actively supported by its members.

ANGELINA J. CARABELLI
President

HAPPENINGS AT NAL

Restoration of Rare Books

The National Agricultural Library has a growing collection of rare and historical books. Many are in need of the highest quality restoration, repair, and/or custom binding. The quantity of rare and historical books donated to the Library has increased as a result of recent "gift" legislation, Public Law 91-591, December 1970, and the formation of the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc.

The primary objective of the NAL binding program is preservation of the Library's books in a manner that is consistent with readability, durability, and esthetic quality. Books will be restored, as nearly as possible, to their original state, with emphasis on restoration rather than rebinding.

A contract was awarded December 20, 1971, to Carolyn Horton Associates, Inc., New York, N. Y., for the repair, restoration, and rebinding of one hundred volumes from this collection.

New Books by NAL Staff

Two bibliographies of interest to agricultural librarians, researchers, and students were published last November by Scarecrow Press. The three-volume Bibliography of Wheat (22,315 references) and the three-volume Bibliography of Corn (20,462 references) were prepared under the direction of Olga Lendvay. These bibliographies, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, originated as a training program for foreign agricultural librarians studying in the United States. After a six months period of training experience, the project was carried on and concluded by personnel of the Biological Sciences Communication Project of the George Washington University.



The compilation was done on the basis of eleven secondary sources covering a ten-year period, 1959-1968. Some references dated 1957, 1958, and 1969 are also included. References were verified with original publications found in the National Agricultural Library and other libraries in the Washington Metropolitan area. The coverage is world wide. Translation into English is provided for most of the foreign entries. Approach to the entries is provided by three indexes: author, subject, and geographical index.

The primary objective of both bibliographies was to cover research done during the ten-year period, 1959-1968. However, it was also considered important to include information on work in field operation, utilization, economic, and other aspects.

Both publications are available from the Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, New Jersey.

Prices are:

Bibliography of Corn
3 vols (1,887p.) 1971. \$55.00

Bibliography of Wheat
3 vols (2,339p.) 1971. \$65.00

Dr. Leslie T. C. Kuo, Senior Specialist at the Library has published a timely new volume, The Technical Transformation of Agriculture in Communist China (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1972). Price is \$16.50. The compilation of the source materials for the present study began in the early 1950's. A grant voted by the Joint Committee on Contemporary China of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, enabled the author to take a leave of absence in 1963 and 1964 from his regular duties at the U. S. Department of Agriculture and to devote his full time to completion of the first draft of the manuscript. Since then, the draft has been drastically revised and updated according to the latest data available to cover the first two decades of the Communist regime. A major portion of the materials used in this study come from the National Agricultural Library, which maintains one of the world's largest collections of literature on Chinese agriculture.

Lincoln and Agriculture

President Lincoln was closely associated with significant agricultural legislation during his term of office. "An Act Establishing the Department of Agriculture" was signed by President Lincoln May 15, 1862 - Statutes at Large, 12:387-388. This Act is particularly significant to the National Agricultural Library for phraseology which has been interpreted as a mission statement for the Library.

"... to acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word ..."

and placed upon the Department the duty of

"... acquiring and preserving all information concerning agriculture ..."

The Land Grant Act of 1862 "An Act donating Public Lands to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts", Statutes at Large, 12:503-505 (the so-called Morrill Act) signed by Lincoln in 1862, authorized the development of low-cost higher education for the people of the United States.

Another significant piece of agricultural legislation, signed by Lincoln, is the Homestead Act of 1862. "An Act to secure Homesteads to actual settlers in the Public Domain". Statutes at Large, 12:392-393. Therefore, it seems appropriate for The Associates to sponsor a permanent exhibit in the lobby of the National Agricultural Library. Representative Fred Schwengel (R-Iowa) recommended our project to the District of Columbia Lincoln Society and the National Capitol Parks-Central. Arrangements were made by these groups acting in concert for the permanent loan of a very

fine bronze head of Lincoln by Leo Cherne from the Smithsonian Collection of Lincolniana at Ford's Theatre. The exhibit will consist of the bronze head mounted on an attractive wood pedestal and framed facsimile copies of the Organic Act, the Land Grant Act and the Homestead Act. An oak paneled partition between the two exhibit cases in the center lobby will provide an exceptionally attractive backdrop for the exhibit. Formal acceptance of the exhibit is scheduled for May 16, 1972 at the Annual Meeting of The Associates.

A monograph "Abraham Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture" will commemorate the event and will also be the first formal publication of The Associates.

Dr. Wayne D. Rasmussen, Chief, Agricultural History Branch, Economics and Statistical Analysis Division, USDA has agreed to contribute an article on Lincoln's involvement in Agriculture. Illustrations will include a facsimile reproduction of the Organic Act and a photograph of the Leo Cherne bronze of Lincoln. One copy will be distributed free of charge to all members. The balance of the stock will be priced to cover the cost of publication and offered for sale to visitors to the National Agricultural Library.

Logos

The Associates have been searching for a logos symbolic of Agriculture and association with the National Agricultural Library. The logos which appears on the masthead of this newsletter fits these requirements. The sheaf of wheat represents a vital agricultural product in the campaign against world hunger. The design itself is an adaptation of the ornamental bronze handles on the doors at the National Agricultural Library and thus links the Associates with the Library.

It is intended that this logos appear on letterhead publications, and other issuances prepared by The Associates of the National Agricultural Library.



Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met February 2, 1972 at the National Agricultural Library. Action was taken on proposed amendments to the By-laws, reports of committees were reviewed and appropriate actions recommended. The reports of committees are included in the Minutes of the Meeting. Two new policy statements regarding memberships were formulated and included in the minutes. The minutes of the Board meeting will be transmitted to members.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The Associates will be on May 16, 1972 at the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland. This date is within one day of the 110th anniversary of the Organic Act establishing USDA.

Schedule of Events

Business Meeting	10:30 a.m.	Room 1400
Luncheon	12:30 p.m.	Room 1400
Presentation of Lincoln Exhibit	2:00 p.m.	Lobby

Some of our members expect to be in Washington at this time for the meeting of the American Poultry Historical Association and the American Feed Manufacturer's Association. We hope other members can discover good reasons for being in the locality at this time.

There will be a charge of \$3.00 this year for lunch. Please fill out the form attached and return it no later than May 1, 1972.

Miss Leila Moran, Secretary
The Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc.
National Agricultural Library
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

 I plan to attend the Annual Meeting

 I plan to attend the luncheon. Enclosed is my check for \$

 Number of reservations @ \$3.00 each

 I do not plan to attend the Annual Meeting and Luncheon

_____ (Signature)
